

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An air cleaner comprising:  
a housing forming an interior area;  
an element for partitioning the interior area of said housing into a dirty side and a clean side; and  
a gas-passing element retainer provided on the clean side of an element holder for supporting said element;  
wherein said element retainer is in the shape of a louver comprising a plurality of opening portions and a plurality of rectifier portions projecting at a slant to an upper side of each of said opening portions.
2. The air cleaner according to claim 1, wherein said louver is formed by a plurality of inclined portions that extend from a base portion forming the opening portions in said element retainer for directing air from the gas-passing element retainer.
3. The air cleaner according to claim 1, wherein said rectifier portions are formed by smoothly continuous curved surfaces extending from a base portion of said element retainer.
4. The air cleaner according to claim 2, wherein said opening portions in said element retainer extend in a first direction and tip end side openings exiting from said inclined portions extend in a second direction displaced relative to said first direction.
5. The air cleaner according to claim 4, wherein said tip end side opening portions second direction is displaced approximately  $90^0$  relative to the opening
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portions in said element retainer that extend in said first direction.

6. The air cleaner according to claim 2, wherein said plurality of inclined portions that extend from the base portion cover said opening portions in said element retainer for reducing the noise from an engine side of said air cleaner.

7. The air cleaner according to claim 1, wherein said louver includes a plurality of approximately hexagonal frame portions that are inclined at a predetermined angle with respect to said element retainer.

8. The air cleaner according to claim 1, wherein said element holder includes a stay positioned at one end for mounting said element holder relative to said housing.

9. The air cleaner according to claim 8, wherein said element holder includes a flange for retaining said element relative to said element holder.

10. The air cleaner according to claim 1, wherein said element is a filter.

11. An air cleaner comprising:  
a housing forming an interior area;  
a retainer for partitioning the interior area of said housing into a dirty side and a clean side; and  
a filter mounted relative to said retainer for cleaning air flowing from said dirty side of said retainer to said clean side;  
wherein said retainer is a louver including a plurality of opening portions and a plurality of rectifier portions projecting at a slant relative to said retainer.

12. The air cleaner according to claim 11, wherein said louver is formed by a plurality of inclined portions that extend from a base portion forming the opening portions in said retainer for directing air from the retainer.

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13. The air cleaner according to claim 11, wherein said rectifier portions are formed by smoothly continuous curved surfaces extending from a base portion of said retainer.

14. The air cleaner according to claim 12, wherein said opening portions in said retainer extend in a first direction and tip end side openings exiting from said inclined portions extend in a second direction displaced relative to said first direction.

15. The air cleaner according to claim 14, wherein said tip end side opening portions second direction is displaced approximately  $90^0$  relative to the opening portions in said retainer that extend in said first direction.

16. The air cleaner according to claim 12, wherein said plurality of inclined portions that extend from the base portion cover said opening portions in said retainer for reducing the noise from an engine side of said air cleaner.

17. The air cleaner according to claim 11, wherein said louver includes a plurality of approximately hexagonal frame portions that are inclined at a predetermined angle with respect to said retainer.

18. The air cleaner according to claim 11, wherein said retainer includes a stay positioned at one end for mounting said retainer relative to said housing.

19. The air cleaner according to claim 18, wherein said retainer includes a flange for retaining said filter relative to said retainer.

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